

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 765

By Litz

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Suzanne Terry upon being named West High School's Teacher of the Year.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding educators who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Suzanne Terry is one such estimable educator, who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Terry has recently been selected as Teacher of the Year at West High School, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a positive influence on countless young lives; and

WHEREAS, being selected as Teacher of the Year at the school level is the first step in the competition for regional, state, and national honors; Ms. Terry will compete against other school-level winners from Hamblen County in order to advance to the district competition; and

WHEREAS, serving with acumen and alacrity as drama and forensics teacher at West High School, Suzanne Terry received her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and an Associate of Science degree from Walter State Community College, and she gained her education in theater from Austin Peay State University; and

WHEREAS, her dedication to excellence within the classroom has garnered Ms. Terry ten Governor's Awards for Excellence in Teaching, and she was awarded the Chair of the prestigious Barkley Forum hosted by Emory University; and

WHEREAS, Suzanne Terry is one of the State's premier forensic science teachers; serving as the coach of West High's National Forensic League (NFL) team for the past eighteen

years, she has earned 8113.3 points, the second-most among active coaches in Tennessee, has been named as a Diamond Coach three times, and has turned West High into the strongest NFL school in the State; and

WHEREAS, her guidance has brought forth twenty-four national qualifiers, two national finalists, and one national semi-finalist in NFL acting, speech, and debate events and has enabled more than fifty state champions to hone their skills. Ms. Terry has coached more One-Act state winners than any other NFL coach in Tennessee; in 2005, her students held the titles of One-Act and Interpretation consecutively, a level of success previously unattained in Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a member of many scholastic organizations, Ms. Terry currently serves as the Chairman of District VI, utilizing her post to stand as the contact for new teachers involved in the NFL and the Tennessee High School Speech and Drama League (THSSDL), and is a member of the THSSDL board and the State Board, organized the Tennessee Theatre Association State Tournament for High School Productions, and is a member of the East Tennessee State University Board; and

WHEREAS, Suzanne Terry is also involved in several civic and community organizations, including the Books Alive Program and the Calloway Development Center; and

WHEREAS, a devout and thoughtful individual, she is a member of the Bulls Gap Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Terry is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Suzanne Terry truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, truly epitomizing the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, Suzanne Terry should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED
FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE
CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Ms. Suzanne Terry on being chosen as
West High School's Teacher of the Year, commend her exceptional service to the children of
Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best
in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared
for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.